

# 101 On How To Skin

 adoxographyv2.boards.net/thread/1682/101-on-skin

## Adoxography 2.0

Adoxography is a term coined in the late 19th century and means, "fine writing on a trivial or base subject". It was a form of rhetorical exercise "in which the legitimate methods of the encomium are applied to persons or objects in themselves obviously unworthy of praise, as being trivial, ugly, useless, ridiculous, dangerous or vicious".

- Wikipedia

The petals store has been updated! I have changed the cover photo to be a purchasable item in order to promote and encourage posting and also have added an accent color purchase! Happy New Year! For the New Year we have a new theme for Adoxography. It is also the alpha to the V6 version of Adoxography! Check it out and give us feedback in the Consulting board!

## Reply

down to the basics

500 x 150

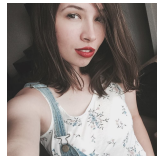
Powered by HTML.COM

Alanna   
Administrator

Nur im Tod sind wir wirklich frei.

Teufelshund


Posts 2,884  
Likes 1,712



Petals

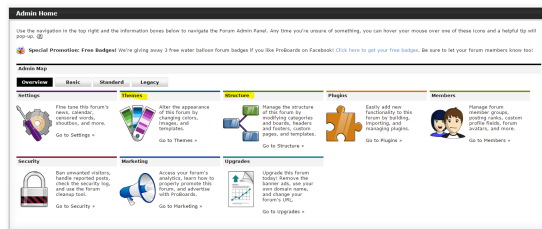
1,290

Advanced  
#Skins,  
#Templates,  
#Remodels,  
#v5, #HTML,  
#CSS  
20 hours ago  
(Sun Sep 16  
2018  
15:34:32  
GMT-0400  
(Eastern  
Daylight  
Time))

Post by Alanna  on Dec 25,  
2014 at 2:29pm (Thu Dec 25  
2014 14:29:39 GMT-0500  
(Eastern Standard Time))

So you want to learn how to skin on Proboards V5, huh? Take my hand and let me show you a whole new world! But seriously, lets get started! Open the Admin Panel by navigating to Admin which is found in your Navigation Bar *(If you do not have this link, that means you are not a staff member and you are not allowed to access it)*. The Admin Panel looks like this *(Highlighted in yellow are the two sections that we will be constantly entering during this tutorial)*:

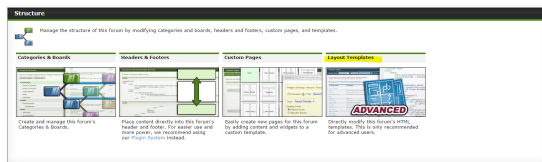
**NOTE!** Click the images to see the full resolution to be able to read them better!



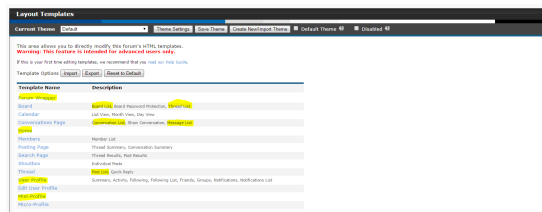
**ATTENTION!** This tutorial will go through the basics of how to remodel and redesign your skin using HTML and CSS which does not include how to add a banner to your forum, a background image, change the color scheme, etc. that are all programmed into your theme settings by default and do not require coding knowledge. If you do NOT know how to do this already, first read the below spoiler before continuing!

**SPOILER: Click to show**

The format of your skin is controlled within the "Structure" section so click on that and you will be brought to this page shown below. If you are familiar with Proboards already, you know that "Categories & Boards" is where you would organize and add on to your forum itself. "Headers & Footers" you should recognize from V4 and "Custom Pages" allow you to create exactly that! However, we are going to be focusing on "Layout Templates" so click on that!




You will be brought to another page with a list of 14 links as seen below. Each of these control a different section of your forum. I will be going through each of the highlighted sections which are considered the main areas of a forum's layout. All those that are not highlighted are not as commonly remodeled so I will not be going over them.






We want to click on "Forum Wrapper" first as this controls the overall structure of your forum's layout. Whatever you put into this layout template will appear on all pages as well but only for this specific theme. If you want something to appear on all pages and themes, place it within your forum's Global Headers or Footers.

Now, clicking on the "Forum Wrapper" you will see this:



This is what a layout template looks like, full of fun with symbols and letters you may or may not understand. What you see is HTML. If you do not know a lick about HTML, you can read up about it [here](#). Though, I will be covering the raw basics in this tutorial. You can cycle the appearance of the text area by clicking on the  in the top right hand corner, but for this tutorial's sake we will be using the default so you can see the different sections:

- Seen in green are your opening and closing tags otherwise known as a lang attribute.
- Seen in blue is what is known as a title attribute.
- Seen in red are those title attribute's values.
- Highlighted in yellow is the "Loops and Variables" section which provides you with many helpful variables that collect data from your forum and it's users and displays it where you want.
- Anything that appears in a lighter hue of red are known as an error. While these are helpful to find what you are doing wrong if anything, there is red all over some of the default templates as well however they work just fine. Normally these are telling you about missing closing tags or syntax errors.

**TIP!** Clicking on the  icon makes the text area full screen and clicking on the  (  which does the opposite) icon makes the text wrap, getting rid of that pesky horizontal scroll-bar.

What are commonly used for skinning are tags and s. Here is a basic example of all the sections of common HTML use in creating Proboards V5 skins to better allow you to understand it's layout and how it works:

**TIP!**Inline styling is considered very sloppy so keep to classes and ids when styling!

```
1 <!-- THIS IS A COMMENT WHICH IS NOT READ WHEN THE FORUM IS LOADED AND IS PERFECT FOR ADDING NOTES OR THOUGHTFULLY REORGANISING SECTIONS OF CODE -->
2 <div class="classname" id="idname"> <!-- CLOSED AND IDS ARE TIED TO THE STYLE SHEET WHICH HELPS YOUR STYLES -->
3 <div>
4 <div style="display:inline"> <!-- INLINE STYLING IS CSS DIRECTLY INPUTTING INTO HTML INSTEAD OF USING A CLASS OR ID -->
5 <div>
6 <!-- A TABLE SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE THE FOLLOWING THING IN ORDER, TABLE TR > TR > TD
7 A TR IS A NEW ROW (HORIZONTAL) AND A TD IS A NEW COLUMN (VERTICAL)
8 TABLE CAPTION "NAME" <!-- ADDING A CAPTION NAME CHANGES THE TABLE SPAN OUT TO IT'S CONTAINER -->
9 <table>
10 <tr> <!-- ROW 1 -->
11 <td> <!-- YOU CAN ADD CLASSES/IDS OR INLINE STYLING TO TD'S TO STYLE THAT SPECIFIC SECTION -->
12 <td>
13 <td>
14 </td>
15 </tr>
16 <tr> <!-- ROW 2 -->
17 <td>
18 <td>
19 </td>
20 </tr>
21 <tr> <!-- ROW 3 -->
22 <td>
23 <td>
24 </td>
25 </tr>
26 </table>
27 <td colspan="2"> <!-- COLUMN TELLS THE TD TO SPAN ACROSS A NUMBER OF COLUMNS -->
28 <td colspan="2">
29 </td>
30 </tr>
31 </table>
```

Also, here are a few other HTML tags that are commonly used:

```
1 <p> <!-- A VERTICAL RETURN/TWIST -->
2 <br /> <!-- CREATES ABOUT 100% VERTICAL GAP -->
3 <pre> <!-- THE P TAG AND JUST ARE KNOWN AS A PARAGRAPH CONTAINER AND WILL BASICALLY CREATE PARAGRAPHS WITHIN BLOCKS OF TEXT -->
4 <!-- SIMILAR TO A DIV, THE SPAN ONLY EFFECTS TEXT AND DOES NOT CREATE A BLOCK CONTAINER, OTHERWISE IT WILL STAY INLINE WITH THE TEXT SURROUNDING IT -->
5 This is a span class="classname" id="idname" style="text-transform: uppercase;" text/ignores sentence.
```

Now that you have a basic understanding of HTML, let's take a look at the "Forum Wrapper" just so you understand it's basic structure.



- Highlighted in red should not be touched or edited.
- Highlighted in dark blue are the opening and closing tags of your forum's wrapper. Styling this can give your forum content a border, background color, and more.
- Highlighted in light blue is the opening and closing header tags which contains your forum's banner and navigation menu.
- Highlighted in light green is your forum's banner.
- Highlighted in dark green is what creates your Navigation Menu.
- Highlighted in purple is your forum's Navigation Tree and Participated button.
- Lastly, highlighted in yellow is your forum's content container and default coding for alerts.

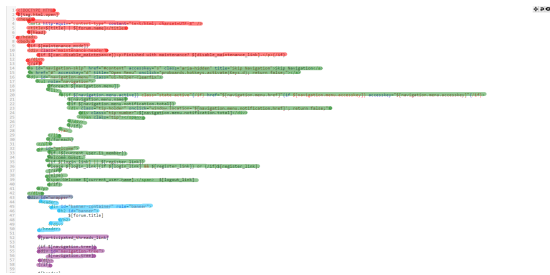
The text that is not highlighted at all are as following:

- `#{forum.title}`: the variable that will pull your forum's name that you set within your forum settings and place it there.
- `#{header}`: the variable that places the top advertisement and anything within your forums Global, Main, or Board Headers.
- `#{content}`: the variable that places all your forum's content which consists of it's Boards, Thread Lists, Post Lists, User Profiles, etc.
- `#{shoutbox}`: the variable that places your forum's shoutbox (if enabled).
- `#{footer}`: just like the header variable, this places your forum's bottom advertisement, Proboards credits, and anything placed within your forum's Global, Main, or Board Footers.

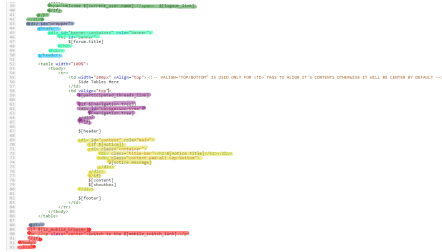
With all that in mind, how about we change the layout a bit? Instead of the default look, let's move the Navigation Bar from outside the Wrapper and Header to the top of our forum to be browser width and add some left side tables to hold some information.

**TIP!** With your cursor active in a layout template, hitting `ctrl+A` to copy all the text then `ctrl+shift` will organize your coding to be more easily navigated and it also helps when searching for mistakes/errors!

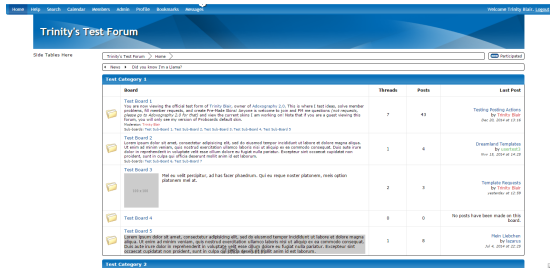
To move the Navigation Bar outside of the header, simply copy the dark green highlighted text seen above and move it right below the red text at the top which is outside of the and tags like so:



To add side tables, use your basic knowledge of tables and place all of your forum content information, which consists of everything within the `<div id="wrapper">` tag however we will be excluding the header so the banner stays on top, within one column and your side tables in another like so:



Which then gets a layout like this:



Jolly good, eh? You now know how to manipulate HTML! Click on the spoiler tags below to see broken down layouts of the other highlighted layout templates that are commonly remodeled.

**TIP!** You can use Inspect Element on Google Chrome, Firefox, or IE by right clicking an area on your forum and selecting "Inspect Element!" A small text area will appear at the bottom of your window with the raw HTML of your forum and the CSS to the right. You can even edit the HTML and CSS within this area to test ideas and it won't effect your forum if you mess anything up! This is also great when trying to fix errors!

#### BOARD LIST

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

#### THREAD LIST

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

#### CONVERSATION LIST

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

#### MESSAGE LIST

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

#### HOME

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

#### POST LIST

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

## USER PROFILE

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

## MINI PROFILE

[SPOILER: Click to show](#)

Very briefly before we move on to the Style Sheet, let's learn about IF Statements. IF Statements are VERY commonly used when skinning with Proboards V5 so here is the basic structure of an IF Statement:

```
1 {if ${variable}}
2 This
3 {else}
4 That
5 {/if}
```

This is when the "Loops & Variables" section becomes very helpful. Basically the IF Statement above is telling your forum that if \${variable} is present, "this" will appear and if not, "that" will appear in it's place. You can also leave out the {else} and that completely for nothing to appear unless the \${variable} is present.

Adding an ! before the variable tells the IF Statement to do the opposite so the below IF Statement does the complete opposite of the above:

```
7 {if !${variable}}
8 That
9 {else}
10 This
11 {/if}
```

You can also in-bed IF Statements within each other like so:

```
13 {if ${variable1}}
14   {if ${variable2}}
15     This
16   {else}
17     That
18   {/if}
19 {else}
20 Or... this
21 {/if}
```

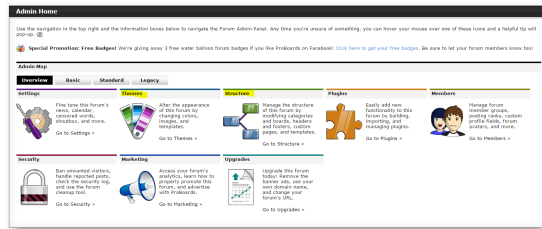
And lastly, included with IF Statements are FOREACH Statements which tell your forum to create a certain segment for each single item it finds... so in this case, the below FOREACH Statement is telling your forum to write "these" for every \${variable} it finds on that page.

You can also learn more

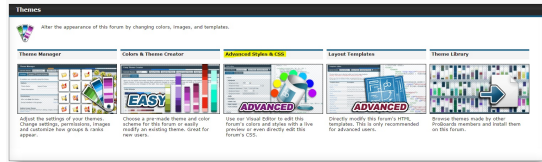
```
23 {foreach ${variable}}
24 These
25 {/foreach}
```

tips about IF Statements by checking out my tutorial on [Adding & Editing Custom Fields](#) which is normally used for adding Custom Fields into your Mini Profile and User Profile remodels but also holds important information of how IF Statements are structured!

Now that you understand how to manipulate the contents of your "Layout Templates". let's take a gander at the "Style Sheet" and give our new layouts different styles. So going back to your Admin Panel main menu...

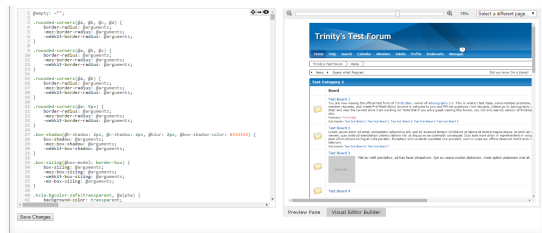


This time let's click on "Themes" which will bring us to the following page:

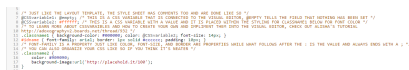


Click on "Advanced Styles & CSS" which will take you to that theme's "Visual Editor." This area allows you to go through many drop down menus to select colors, borders, and font styles for different areas, however click on the second tab called "Style Sheet" so you can access the raw CSS in which the "Visual Editor" actually controls. The Style Sheet looks like so:

**TIP!** With the cursor active in the Style Sheet text area, hit ctrl+F which will bring up a search bar. Type anything in this bar and it will highlight all areas within the Style Sheet with that exact text!

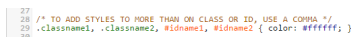


Below is an example section explaining all the basics of the Style Sheet:

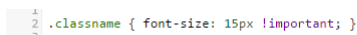


**TIP!** For beginners, it is easier to duplicate an existing class or id and place it at the bottom of the Style Sheet instead of editing the default styles in order not to mess anything up!

You can also add more than one class or id on the same line and give them the same styles:



When trying to override an existing style or if a style just isn't taking affect, try adding **!important** right after the property value! This tells it to ignore any other competing style!



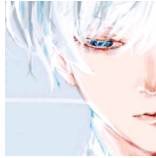
We all know that everyone loves hovers... well- the majority of the skinning community does anyhow, so how do you make hovers with CSS? Below is a basic

[illegible]

**NOTE!** I just tried to cover the basics for every major part of skinning to get you beginners started! For those of you who want to start skinning but want some help, download [THIS](#) starter skeleton in which I have simplified, fixed some major coding issues, and added helpful comments throughout the Layout Templates and Style Sheet!

Did I miss something? Let me know in a PM so I can add it!

• • •



410

Time)) Alanna

01F01F
9405R4

Post by Junier on Dec 26, 2014 at 7:33pm (Fri Dec 26 2014 19:33:59 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time))

01F  
5A4



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Alanna   
Administrator

Teufelshund

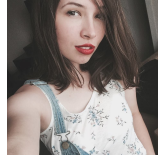
Posts 2,884  
Likes 1,712

Petals


1,290

Advanced #Skins,  
#Templates,  
#Remodels, #v5,  
#HTML, #CSS  
20 hours ago (Sun  
Sep 16 2018  
15:34:32 GMT-  
0400 (Eastern  
Daylight Time))

Nur im Tod sind wir wirklich  
frei.




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Post by Alanna  on Dec  
26, 2014 at 8:47pm (Fri Dec  
26 2014 20:47:48 GMT-0500  
(Eastern Standard Time))



Dec 26, 2014 at 7:33pm (Fri Dec 26 2014  
19:33:59 GMT-0500 (Eastern Standard Time))  
Junier said:

Omg a tutorial on how to skin! Wished there had  
been one as awesome as yours when I first  
started skinning, it would have made things so  
much easier! ❤️ Thanks Alanna   
Danke! If you have any suggestions as to what I  
should add or elaborate on, let me know! ❤️

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